

Application No. 10/702,205
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration of this application as amended are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 and new claims 24-29 are pending in this application, claims 18-23 having been canceled. Claim 4 has been rejected. Claims 2 and 17 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected embodiment.

Claims 4 and 6 are amended and the changes to these claims do not relate to patentability.

Election/Restriction

In response to the earlier restriction and election of species requirements, claims 18-23, drawn to a non-elected embodiment, have been canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional application directed to the subject matter of these claims.

Claims 2 and 17, also directed to a non-elected embodiment, remain in the application and it is respectfully submitted that if claim 1 is deemed allowable, claims 2 and 17 should be considered for rejoinder (see MPEP 821.04).

In response to the Examiner's statement that species (a), i.e., the embodiment shown in Figs. 3A and 4A, is not encompassed by claim 1 because the anchor portion in this embodiment does not have a width larger than the width of a respective one of the slots, it is noted that as clearly shown in Fig. 4A, the width of

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the anchor portion (W1) is greater than the width of the slot formed in the upper surface of the base (W2). Thus, claim 1 is believed to encompasses species (a).

Claim Rejections-35 USC 112

Claim 4 has been amended to remove the informality noted by the Examiner and thereby overcome the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1 and 3-16 is acknowledged. Since claim 1 has been allowed, rejoinder of claims 2 and 17, drawn to a non-elected embodiment, is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 24-29 are presented and all are directed to the elected species of the invention. Therefore, claims 24-29 should be considered together with claims 1 and 3-16 in this application.

Claim 24 is a second independent claim which includes subject matter from original claims 1, 7, 10, 12 and 16, all of which were drawn to the elected species. Claims 25-29 depend from claim 24.

Authorization to Charge Fee

As previously set forth, the application included 23 claims of which 2 were independent, and the appropriate claim fee was

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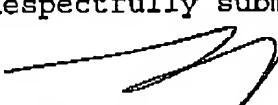
paid for such claims. The application now contains 23 claims, of which 2 are independent. Accordingly, no fee is due for the presentation of claims 24-29. Nevertheless, if any fees are determined to be required for the presentation of claims 24-29 or entry of this Amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1378.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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